

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**WHEREAS**, in July 2021, Council passed the Safer 6<sup>th</sup> Street Initiative (Resolution No. 20210729-175) to initiate a series of actions aimed at creating safer conditions in Austin’s entertainment district; and

**WHEREAS**, the Safer 6<sup>th</sup> Street Initiative directed the City Manager to implement a more comprehensive strategy toward the Historic Sixth Street District (6<sup>th</sup> Street District) that maximizes its assets, embraces new opportunities, and ensures a safer environment for all; and

**WHEREAS**, as documented in staff memos from October 5, 2021, and December 27, 2021, (Exhibits A and B), outcomes from the Safer 6<sup>th</sup> Initiative have included the formation of an interdepartmental team; lighting improvements; joint actions with Texas Alcohol and Beverage Commission to curb underage drinking; brainstorming of ways to activate public spaces; consideration of an entertainment license program; and beginning a nightlife management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the staff’s December 27, 2021, memo (included as Exhibit B) also included recommendations for next steps; **NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF AUSTIN CITY COUNCIL:**

The City Manager is directed to create pilot programs for the installation of seating, dining, and small-scale activations in the right of way on the 200, 500, 600 and 700 blocks of 6<sup>th</sup> Street to support the goal of adding more diverse uses and amenities and thus expanding the audience of people who recreate in the area. The City Council supports staff’s proposed “Pilot Program 1” that includes activations for seating, dining, and other activities during 6<sup>th</sup> Street closures which occur on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. The City Manager is directed to finalize

25 program criteria, requirements, and the application process and to implement this  
26 program by May 1, 2022; and to bring to Council an ordinance to waive fees  
27 associated with this pilot program.

28 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

29 The City Council endorses City staff's recommendation that any future  
30 redesign or rebuild of 6<sup>th</sup> Street or the streetscape include dedicated pedestrian  
31 lighting solutions. The City Manager is directed to formalize this intent as  
32 necessary and to provide feedback by June 1, 2022, as to whether temporary  
33 lighting could achieve a similar effect in the interim.

34 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

35 The City Manager shall initiate a lighting study to identify gaps in the street  
36 light network throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> Street District with work to be completed before  
37 Council embarks on Fiscal Year 2023 budget deliberations.

38 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

39 The City Manager shall prioritize the work with property owners in the area  
40 to encourage them to add temporary or permanent lighting on their properties,  
41 especially along alleys.

42 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

43 The City Manager is directed to prepare the necessary ordinance(s) to create  
44 a pilot annual entertainment permit with an accompanying safety plan for places of  
45 assembly operating in the 6<sup>th</sup> Street District with operating hours after 12 a.m.

46 The Council agrees with staff's recommendation that the annual  
47 entertainment permit incorporate the inspections, reviews, and approvals required  
48 for the operating permit issued by the Austin Fire Department (AFD) for fire

49 prevention and the outdoor music venue permit issued by the Development  
50 Services Department (DSD) for the use of sound equipment.

51 The Council supports staff's suggestion that the existing process used for  
52 outdoor music venue permits be used for the new entertainment permit and that the  
53 Entertainment Services Group coordinate the process and serve as a liaison to  
54 permit holders. The City Manager shall present the ordinance(s) to Council as soon  
55 as possible.

56 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

57 The City Manager is directed to continue working with all 6<sup>th</sup> Street bar  
58 owners and stakeholders to encourage written safety plans, training for door staff,  
59 increased communication with the Austin Police Department, peer-to-peer  
60 communication, and codes of conduct that outline expected standards of behavior  
61 for staff and patrons, which includes a plan to prioritize the prevention of underage  
62 drinking.

63 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

64 The City Manager is directed to provide Council with regular written  
65 updates on the planning currently underway to create a dedicated Emergency  
66 Medical Services presence and staging area on 6<sup>th</sup> Street that will allow for safer  
67 and faster treatment and extrication of individuals needing medical attention. The  
68 City Manager shall first report back to Council no later than May 1, 2022.

69 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

70 After the forthcoming Spring Festival events, the City Manager shall  
71 communicate to Council any new findings or recommendations with regard to  
72 safety and mobility as informed by this year's festival activities. The City Manager  
73 shall do the same after subsequent festivals.

74  
75 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

76 The City Manager is directed to explore ways to implement safe gun storage  
77 options and policies for evacuees that the City hosts in ~~hotels hotels~~ during times  
78 of disaster.

79 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

80 By May 1, 2022, the City Manager shall provide Council with information  
81 about previous City-sponsored gun buyback programs (total costs and number of  
82 weapons obtained). The City Manager shall also provide Council with a  
83 recommendation as to whether or not the City should establish a new gun buyback  
84 program and to provide information about potential funding sources should a new  
85 gun buyback program be recommended.

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

87 By May 1, 2022, the City Manager shall provide Council with  
88 recommendations related to the possibility of installing more HALO (High  
89 Activity Location Observation) cameras throughout the 6<sup>th</sup> Street area. If the  
90 Manager recommends installing additional cameras, he shall provide estimated  
91 costs and possible funding sources.

92 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

93 The City Council desires to take a strong stance against establishments with  
94 records of repeated violent incidents taking place among their customers. ~~Using~~  
95 ~~Houston as a model and w~~WWithin the next 45 days, the City Council requests  
96 information about legal options that may be available to the City to address  
97 establishments with such records. This information should address existing or

98 proposed regulatory options considered or proposed by other cities, such as  
99 Houston.

100 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

101 To encourage a broader array of uses in the 6<sup>th</sup> Street area, the City Manager  
102 shall propose a pilot program by June 1, 2022, that provides incentives or loans to  
103 owners of historic buildings in the 6<sup>th</sup> Street District who seek to add kitchens. The  
104 City Manager shall also recommend possible funding sources for such a program,  
105 including whether the 6th Street Public Improvement District (PID) could be a  
106 viable funding source for these incentives or loans.

107  
108 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

109 The City Manager shall initiate a new historic survey of the 6<sup>th</sup> Street  
110 District that identifies contributing and non-contributing properties and provides  
111 guidance on how non-contributing properties could be redeveloped in a manner  
112 that maintains the cohesiveness and integrity of the historic district.

113 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:**

114 The City Manager shall work collaboratively with the Downtown Austin  
115 Alliance to mutually contribute and maintain ~~on~~ public realm improvements aimed  
116 at creating a safer and more family-friendly atmosphere in the 6<sup>th</sup> Street District,  
117 including such strategies as the reconstruction of East 6th Street, installation of  
118 decorative planters, public art and programming, the active storefront program, and  
119 a pilot program for alley activation and public market on Sabine Street. The City  
120 Manager shall report to Council on the progress of this collaboration by June 1,  
121 2022. The City Manager is directed to bring an ordinance to Council to waive fees  
122 associated with these activations.

**ADOPTED:** \_\_\_\_\_, 2022 **ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_

Myrna Rios  
City Clerk

DRAFT